

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0286

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC
SUBJ: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING: THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
AND OTHER PROPOSALS ON THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY

1. AT A MEETING OF REPS OF 13 WEO NY MISSIONS ON JAN 26
CONCERNING THE UPCOMING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MEETING,
THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS AS TO IF AND HOW THE QUESTIONS OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER OUGHT TO BE RAISED AT THE HRC. THE FRG REP
SUGGESTED THE BASIC DILEMMA IS TO WHAT DEGREE CAN 32/130 AND
THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY BE SEPARATED, AND
OFFERED THE OPINION THAT THE CUBAN DELEGATION WILL TRY TO UNITE
THE TWO. IN AN ENSUING DISCUSSION OF THE ROLE OF THE CUBAN
DELEGATE THE REP FROM NEW ZEALAND SAID THAT CUBA DOES NOT
REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, AND
THAT THIS IS BECOMING MORE OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE, AND THAT THE
MORE FREQUENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE NON-ALIGNED
WILL TEND TO LEAVE CUBA ISOLATED, OR MORE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED
AS A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN BLOC. (CUBA WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE
AND ACTIVE OPPONENT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AT THE GA, AND
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CERTAINLY WILL BE THE SAME AT THE HRC.)

2. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BOTH EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT
THERE SHOULD NOT BE A WESTERN INITIATIVE ON THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
AT THIS HRC MEETING BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY OTHER ISSUES
BEFORE THE HRC. MISOFF DEMURRED, SAYING THAT THE CHANGE OF
NAME TO UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN

AFFAIRS WOULD PROBABLY BE ENOUGH TO KEEP THE HUMAN RIGHTS
MOMENTUM GOING, WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE TO MANY NATIONS
WHO FEAR (OR SAY THEY FEAR) A "S70ERNATIONAL" POST ABOVE THE
SYG, AND WOULD KEEP THE DOOR OPEN FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY IN THE FUTURE. MISOFF ADDED THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL IS NO LONGER PURELY A WESTERN
INITIATIVE.

3. THE POSSIBILITY OF REFERRING THE QUESTION OF "ALTERNATE
WAYS AND MEANS....." TO THE SUB-COMMISSION OR A SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE HRC WAS DISCUSSED, BUT THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS.

4. COMMENT: USUN WOULD LIKE TO APPROACH THE GOVTS OF
INDIA, IRAN AND NIGERIA IN CAPITALS TO SEE IF THE THREE
COULD AGREE ON A JOINT PROPOSAL TO THE CONSPONSORS OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL FOR A SCALING-DOWN OF THE POST
TO UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL AS MENTIONED ABOVE. WE ALREADY
KNOW THIS IS MUCH LESS FRIGHTENING TO THE SOVIET AND CUBANS,
AND ACCEPTABLE TO UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL BUFFUM.
LEONARD

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